SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 538
DEC.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ONE MORE POUNDING FROM JACKHAMMER AND YOU'RE DEAD!
GET OUT!
NO WAY!
BUCKLER & GIORDANO

PERHAPS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE EVER FACED BY THE MIGHTY
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
JIMMY OLSEN THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE JUST AN ORDINARY DAY...
MOB FIGURES INDICTED
GOOD GOSH! SUPERMAN...?!
BUT WHEN YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THE MAN OF STEEL, THINGS ARE NEVER ORDINARY FOR VERY LONG...
"THE MEASURE OF A SUPERMAN!"
...YOU OKAY, PAL?
UNHHHH...
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J-JIMMY? THEN I MADE IT TO YOUR PLACE! CAN'T REMEMBER GETTING HERE, BUT--
WHOO-EEE! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT REFUSED TO DRAG IN!
BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON'T CARE HOW YOU LOOK! I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE!
THE MORNING NEWS SAID YOU TRIED TO TAKE OUT THAT JACKHAMMER CREEP LAST NIGHT...
...BUT HE TOOK ME OUT INSTEAD! I TELL YOU, JIMMY, THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE BEST WEEK OF MY LIFE! FIRST, LORD SATANUS SPLITS ME INTO TWO SUPERMEN, EACH WITH HALF THE POWERS OF THE ORIGINAL...
...THEN HE SENDS ME BACK TO 1982, KEEPING MY OTHER HALF TRAPPED IN THE PAST, WITH ME NOT KNOWING IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, JIMMY, JUST SIT ME DOWN THERE...
*ACTION #534--JULIE
...AT YOUR MAKEUP TABLE.
AND THEN I GET THE TAR BEATEN OUT OF ME BY JACKHAMMER, SINCE I AM THE SUPERMAN WITHOUT INVULNERABILITY!*
BUT WHAT CAN I DO-- BESIDES PROVIDE MORAL SUPPORT, NATCH?
USE YOUR DISGUISE SKILLS TO HIDE MY BRUISES! I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW I'VE BEEN IN A FIGHT!
*LAST ISSUE--J.S.
FOR A GUY WITH MY TALENTS--? PIECE OF CAKE! BUT ONE MORE THING...
WHAT IS IT, JIMMY?
BETTER LET ME GIVE YOU A QUICK SHAVE, TOO! SINCE YOU'RE NOT INVULNERABLE, YOU'RE SPROUTING A LITTLE 5 O'CLOCK SHADOW!
JIMMY, YOU'RE A WONDER!
SO FAR, SO GOOD..
WGBS
...NO ONE'S COMMENTED ON MY APPEARANCE--WHICH IS JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!
WHEN THIS IS OVER, SUPERMAN WILL HAVE TO GIVE JIMMY A--EH?
CLARK? CLARK KENT!
2

THERE YOU ARE, CLARK! HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MORNING'S PLANET?
UH...NO, I HAVEN'T, LOIS. WHY?
WHY? LOOK AT IT! ISN'T IT THE MOST AWFUL THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN?
"SUPERMAN BEATEN!" GOSH, THAT IS DISTURBING!
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN BEATEN BY JACKHAMMER
IT'S WORSE THAN THAT! HE MAY BE LYING SOMEWHERE, HURT, OR...OR WORSE! HAVE YOU SEEN SUPERMAN THIS MORNING?
WHY, NO, LOIS--
--NOT UNLESS YOU COUNT LOOKING IN A MIRROR!
OH, NO, YOU DON'T! YOU AVOIDED ME YESTERDAY, CLARK...
WELL, I'M SURE HE'LL SHOW UP, LOIS! HE ALWAYS DOES! NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
...BUT TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TALK, AND I WON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER! SIT DOWN!
HERE, I BROUGHT YOU THESE!
BOOKS--?
NOT JUST ANY BOOKS! SELF-HELP BOOKS!
BE ALL THE PERSON YOU CAN BE
HELP YOUR SELF-ESTEEM
HELP YOUR SEXUAL SKILLS
B-BUT WHY GIVE THESE TO ME, LOIS? I'M HAPPY THE WAY I AM!
ARE YOU, CLARK? YOU'RE A SUCCESSFUL REPORTER, YES...
3

...BUT YOU COULD BE SO MUCH MORE. SOMETIMES I SENSE SOME GREAT INNER STRENGTH IN YOU, CLARK...
I--ER--APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, LOIS...
...AND I'M ONLY TRYING TO BRING IT OUT!
...BUT I REALLY LIKE MYSELF JUST FINE THE WAY I AM! I'LL CERTAINLY GIVE THOSE BOOKS A LOOK, THOUGH.
OH, CLARK...
OKAY--?
...SOMETIMES I THINK TRYING TO HELP YOU IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME...
...YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE!
CLARK KENT
SLAM!
PROBABLY NOT, LOIS...
...BUT I HOPE YOU NEVER STOP TRYING!
WE TURN NOW TO FAST EDDIE'S BAR, A PLACE OF BAD FOOD, WARM BEER...
BAR
FAST EDDIE
...AND EVERY NOW AND THEN, A LITTLE VIOLENCE!
I TOLD YOU, PUNK...
WHACK-AK
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

...I ONLY TAKE CASH IN ADVANCE FOR SUPERVISIN' ONE OF YOUR JOBS!
ANYBODY ELSE MIGHT SETTLE FOR A CUT AFTERWARD...
BUT THEY AIN'T JACKHAMMER, ARE THEY?
N-NOPE.
NO, SIR!
THEY AIN'T THE ONLY GUY WHO EVER BEAT SUPERMAN...
...AND IF YOU WANT MY HELP, YOU HAVE TO PAY!
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN BEATEN BY JACKHAMMER
S-SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
HERE YOU GO, MR. JACKHAMMER!
IS THIS ENOUGH?
NIGHT IN METROPOLIS: ALMOST EVERY NIGHT IN RECENT HISTORY, THE EBON SKIES OF THIS CITY HAVE BEEN CUT BY A POWERFUL FLYING FORM.
BUT FOR THE PAST FEW NIGHTS, THAT FORM HAS BEEN MECHANICAL...
POLICE
...WHILE A FAMILIAR COSTUMED FIGURE STICKS MUCH CLOSER TO THE GROUND!
HATE TO THINK THE POLICE ARE DOING MY JOB FOR ME...

... BUT IF I KEEP A LOW PROFILE UNTIL I'VE FULLY RECOVERED FROM MY SKIRMISH WITH JACKHAMMER...
...I'LL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE WHEN I DO SHOW UP!
MEANTIME, NOTHING SAYS I CAN'T DO A LITTLE CRIME-STOPPING ON THE SLY...
JEWELRY
UH-OH! THAT EXPLODING WALL CERTAINLY LOOKS SUSPICIOUS!
AND I DON'T NEED MY SUPER-HEARING TO KNOW THAT JACKHAMMER AND COMPANY ARE UP TO NO GOOD...
...WHICH IS LUCKY, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MY SUPER-HEARING ANY MORE!
BLAST! THEY'LL ROB THAT STORE BARE, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT...
KRAK
...OR IS THERE?
THERE'S THE BURGLAR ALARM; THEY MUST HAVE BYPASSED IT SOMEHOW! IT WOULD BE A SNAP TO SET IT OFF WITH HEAT VISION...
BURGLAR ALARM
...BUT THAT'S STUCK BACK IN THE PAST, TOO! HAVE TO TRY BOMBARDING IT WITH X-RAY VISION INSTEAD, AND HOPE...
6

CLANGANGANG
HEY, YOU COWARDS, WAIT! I'LL HANDLE THE BLUE BOYS!
BLASTED LOSERS! I'LL SHOW 'EM!
AND WHAT'LL YOU DO IF I DON'T--SHOOT?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, JACKHAMMER!
FIRE AWAY! I GOT A FEW ITCHES UNDER HERE THAT NEEDED SCRATCHIN' ANYWAY! HAHAHAHA
I LIP-READ THAT, FELLA, AND YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY EXPECT ME TO BE SUPERMAN!
DEO-MART
BUT I CAN'T TAKE JACKHAMMER YET...
...NO, NOT JUST YET...!
AND IF YOU'RE BEGINNING TO WONDER ABOUT THE ARRYNNIAN CHAMPION'S CONDUCT, READER...
WE GONNA LET HIM LAUGH AT US LIKE THAT, BILL?
WE SAVED THE PROPERTY, SAM--AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS! NOBODY EXPECTS YOU TO BE SUPERMAN!
7

...YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
FOR THE NEXT WEEK, THE CITY OF METROPOLIS IS INUNDATED BY A CRIME-WAVE, THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE MAN OF TOMORROW!
DAILY PLANET
WHERE IS SUPERMAN?
AND A SINGLE HEADLINE SUMS UP THE CITY'S HEARTFELT QUESTION:
ARMORED CAR
AL BANK
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST, WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE IS HE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S AFRAID -- BUT WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE?
DAILY PLANET
WHERE IS SUPERMAN?
JIMMY--DID HE SEEM BADLY INJURED IN YOUR APARTMENT?
NOTHING A LITTLE IODINE AND SOME TIME COULDN'T FIX, CHIE--UH, PERRY!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, LOIS?
OR HEARD FROM HIM, PERRY-- AND THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM!
HOW ABOUT YOU, CLARK? ANY CONTACT WITH HIM? EVEN A MESSAGE?
NOTHING, PERRY.. BUT WE HAVE TO ASSUME HE HAS HIS OWN REASONS FOR STAYING AWAY SO LONG!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, CLARK.
THAT MAKES TWO OF US, PERRY!
8
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

GOT TO STOP LYING TO MYSELF! I RECOVERED FROM THAT LAST FIGHT DAYS AGO...
...THEN WHY HAVEN'T I GONE AFTER JACK-HAMMER? IS PERRY RIGHT? AM I AFRAID?
TIMES LIKE THESE, I WISH PA KENT WERE HERE...
HE ALWAYS SAW THINGS SO CLEARLY...
YOU'VE GOT TO TRY OUT YOUR FLYING POWERS SOMETIME, CLARK!
GO AHEAD, JUMP! EVEN IF YOU FALL, YOU KNOW YOU WON'T BE HURT!
I...I DON'T WANT TO, PA! I'M AFRAID!
BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND, SON. ALL YOUR LIFE, THERE'LL BE THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DO, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO THEM!
WE'RE ALL AFRAID, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER...BUT FACING UP TO THOSE FEARS, AND BEATING THEM, IS THE MEASURE OF A MAN! OKAY?
O-OKAY, PA!
YES... THE MEASURE OF A MAN..
...AND A SUPERMAN!

THIS METROPOLIS THEATRE IS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE BOOKED THE LATEST SPACE-FANTASY HIT...
METRO CINEMA 1
ASTRO WARS 2
METRO CINEMA II
BUT NONE OF THESE PEOPLE REALIZE, AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE TENSION MOUNTS...
GALAXY PRODUCTION
...THAT THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET A FAR BIGGER SHOW THAN THEY THOUGHT!
?
HEY, WHAT...?
QUIET, ALL OF YA! YOU PAID SO MUCH MONEY TO GET IN HERE...
...THAT I DON'T FIGURE YOU'LL MIND PAYIN' A LITTLE MORE TO GET OUT!
JUST SO YOU WON'T GO HOME BROKEN-HEARTED, I'LL EVEN MAKE A PERSONAL APPEARANCE!
RRRIP
10

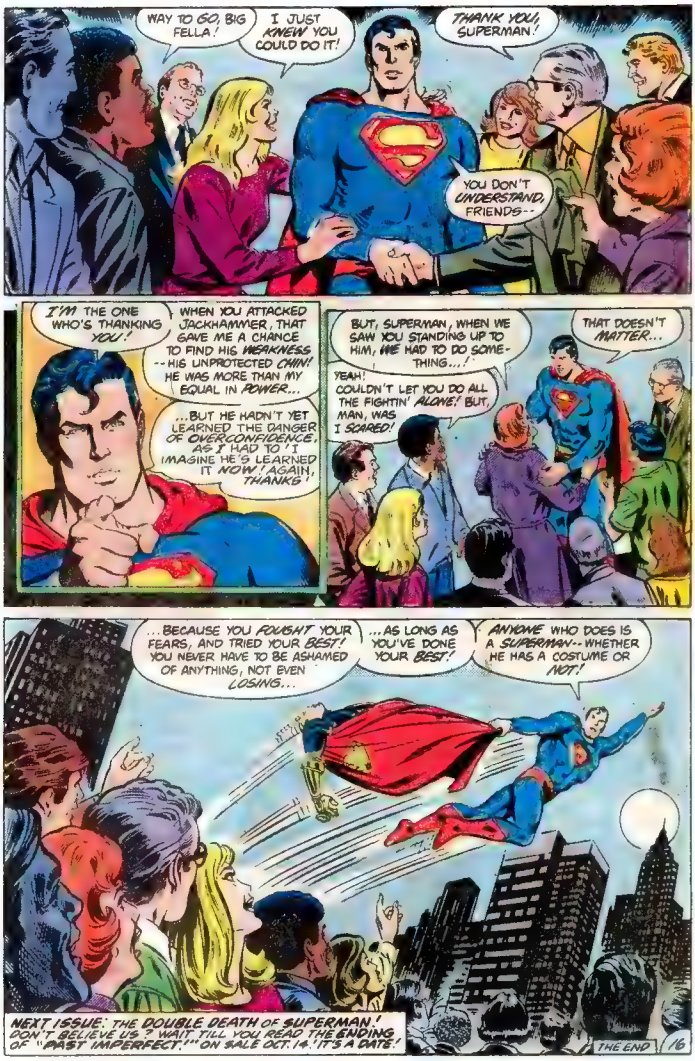
AND THOUGH I CAN'T KEEP TABS ON ALL OF YOU CLOWNS AT ONCE.
... MY BOYS CAN! SO EVERYBODY JUST STAY PUT, OKAY?
GASP!
MOMMY, I'M SCARED!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, DARLING.
SEEMS A LITTLE WARM IN HERE, GENTLEMEN! MIND IF I COOL THINGS DOWN?
M-MY ROD... TURNED INTA AN ICICLE!?
MINE, TOO! BUT HOW...?!
MAYBE MY SUPER-BREATH MADE IT A LITTLE TOO COLD, JACKHAMMER!
YOU--?
BUT DON'T WORRY..
... FOR YOU, THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET VERY HOT!
C'MON OUTSIDE, SUPERMAN.
... AND WE'LL FINISH THIS, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BEAT YOU TO IT, JACKHAMMER... BUT FLYING OVER BUILDINGS IS SO MUCH NEATER THAN GOING THROUGH THEM!
IZZAT RIGHT?
WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO HUNG UP ON NEATNESS, SUPES...
...'CAUSE IT'S GONNA GET PRETTY MESSY AROUND HERE!
:UH-OH!: HE COULD BE RIGHT...
CRRUJJJH
...BUT A COMBINATION OF INDESTRUCTIBLE CAPE AND SUPER-SPEED SHOULD GET ME THROUGH WITHOUT A SCRATCH!
WHACK-AK
NOW WHERE DID HE--UNGGGH!
RIGHT HERE! MAYBE I CAN'T MATCH YOUR FLYIN' STUNT...
...BUT THANKS TO MY HYDRAULIC POWER SUIT, I CAN JUMP WITH THE BEST OF 'EM!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE ON THE RECEIVIN' END OF A SUPER-STRENGTH PUNCH, SUPES?
N-NOT GOOD..
12

THEN GIVE UP, MAN! I DON'T WANNA KILL YA, BUT I WILL IF I HAVE TO!
YOU KNOW YA CAN'T WIN! WHY KEEP TRYIN'?
YOU'D PANT: NEVER UNDERSTAND MY REASONS, JACKHAMMER..
...SO I WON'T TRY TO EXPLAIN!
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YA? GO AHEAD, TAKE YER BEST SHOT...
...AND IT STILL AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH! AIN'T YOU REALIZED THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S INVULNERABLE NOW..
UNHH!
...I'M THE ONE WHO'S EVERYTHING YOU USED TO BE!
SAY YER PRAYERS, SUPES--IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
MY WORD... HE MEANS IT!
HE'S GONNA KILL SUPERMAN!
CAN'T BE! SUPERMAN CAN TAKE HIM! HE'S GOT TO!

THAT'S IT, SUPES, GET UP! IT AIN'T GOOD FER YER REP TO DIE ON YER KNEES!
THERE WON'T BE ANY :GASP: DYING HERE TONIGHT, JACKHAMMER--
--NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, AGGGH!
BLAST IT, THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT--
--YOU DON'T!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S UNBEATABLE NOW, AN' YOU...
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S FINISHED!
LUNGS FEEL LIKE BUSTED BALLOONS! GOT TO MOVE, BUT CAN'T...
:GASP: CAN'T...
WHAT IN BLAZES?
CUT IT OUT, ALLA YA!
THIS WON'T SAVE HIM-- AND I'LL ONLY COME AFTER YOU NEXT!
LEAVE HIM ALONE, JACKHAMMER!
ALL METROPOLIS OWES SUPERMAN A HUNDRED TIMES OVER!
LET HIM GO, YOU BULLY!
YEAH!

YOU'RE NUTS! YOU'RE ALL NUTS! AND YOU'VE JUST BOUGHT YERSELVES MORE PAIN THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE...
...'CAUSE WHEN SUPERMAN'S DEAD...
...I'M COMIN' AFTER YOU!!
? BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE...
IT...: PANT:... IT'S ALL RIGHT, FOLKS! HE'LL BE NO TROUBLE FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS!
...GOT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
WHUD
GNNNING!
YAYYYYYY


WAY TO GO, BIG FELLA!
I JUST KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, FRIENDS--
I'M THE ONE WHO'S THANKING YOU!
WHEN YOU ATTACKED JACKHAMMER, THAT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO FIND HIS WEAKNESS--HIS UNPROTECTED CHIN! HE WAS MORE THAN MY EQUAL IN POWER...
...BUT HE HADN'T YET LEARNED THE DANGER OF OVERCONFIDENCE, AS I HAD TO! I IMAGINE HE'S LEARNED IT NOW! AGAIN, THANKS!
BUT, SUPERMAN, WHEN WE SAW YOU STANDING UP TO HIM, WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING...!
YEAH! COULDN'T LET YOU DO ALL THE FIGHTIN' ALONE! BUT, MAN, WAS I SCARED!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER...
...BECAUSE YOU FOUGHT YOUR FEARS, AND TRIED YOUR BEST! YOU NEVER HAVE TO BE ASHAMED OF ANYTHING, NOT EVEN LOSING...
...AS LONG AS YOU'VE DONE YOUR BEST!
ANYONE WHO DOES IS A SUPERMAN--WHETHER HE HAS A COSTUME OR NOT!
NEXT ISSUE: THE DOUBLE DEATH OF SUPERMAN! DON'T BELIEVE US? WAIT 'TILL YOU READ THE ENDING OF "PAST IMPERFECT!" ON SALE OCT. 14. IT'S A DATE!
THE END
16

THE SON OF A LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER AND A WOMAN EXILED FROM SUNKEN ATLANTIS, ARTHUR CURRY GREW TO MANHOOD WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL FORMS OF SEA-LIFE! TODAY HE IS THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS, THE MARINE MARVEL KNOWN AS ...

AQUAMAN

BEGINNING WITH A NIGHTMARE OF HIS BELOVED WIFE MERA CALLING FOR HELP, IT BECAME A DREAM-COME-TRUE WHEN AQUAMAN DISCOVERED MERA BACK ON EARTH! BUT WHEN SHE HAD NO MEMORY OF BEING HIS WIFE, THE SEA KING SET OUT TO HELP HER REMEMBER -- ONLY TO HAVE IT TURN INTO A DEATHTRAP -- FOR HIM!

MERA -- YOUR BRAIN-WAVES HAVE FORMED HARD WATER AROUND ME...

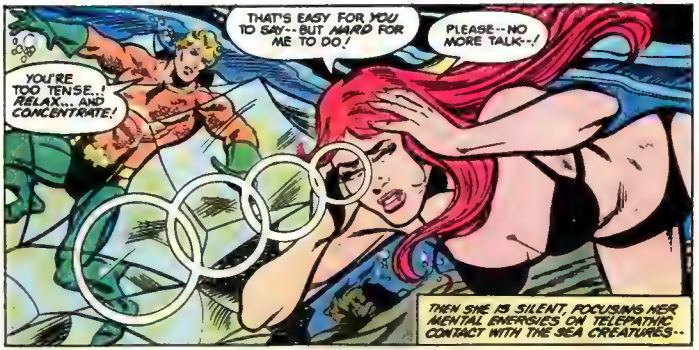
WEAKENING ME!

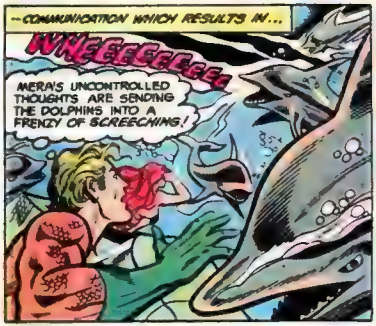
I ... I'M TRYING ... BUT NOTHING IS HAPPENING!

COLLECT YOUR THOUGHTS.. BEAM THEM AT THE ATTACKING DOLPHINS. ORDER THEM AWAY FROM HERE!

"MERA, MERA, ON THE WAVE -- WHO'S THE ONE YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE?"

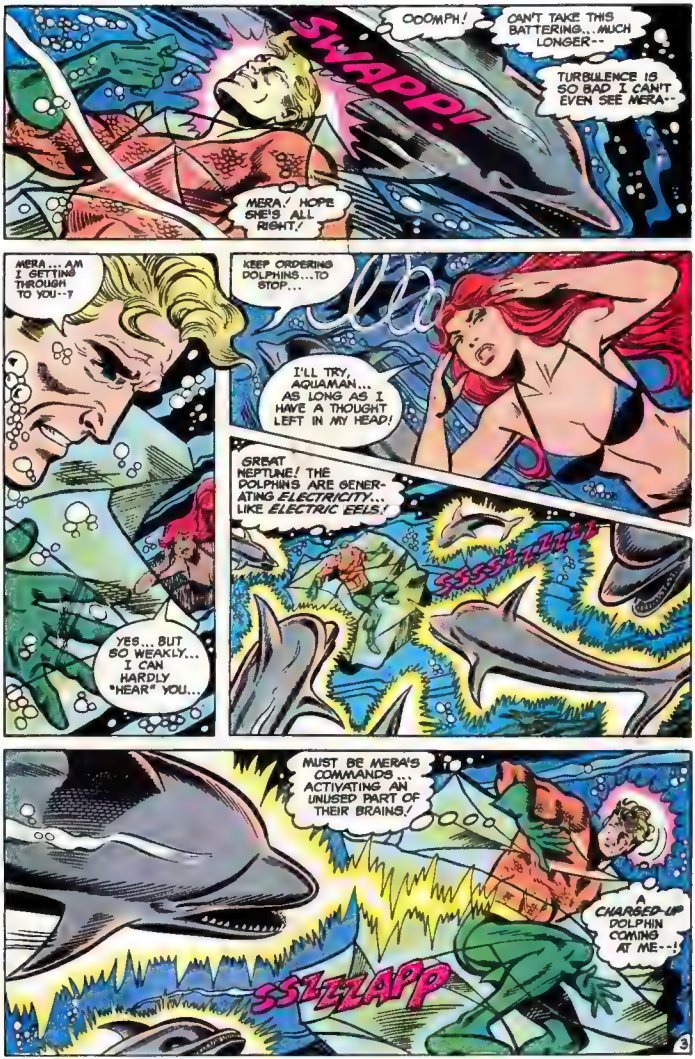
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER | ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER | FRANK McLAUGHLIN INKER | BEN ODA LETTERER | TATJANA COLORIST | JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR


YOU'RE TOO TENSE..! RELAX... AND CONCENTRATE!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY--BUT HARD FOR ME TO DO!
PLEASE--NO MORE TALK--!
THEN SHE IS SILENT, FOCUSING HER MENTAL ENERGIES ON TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH THE SEA CREATURES--


--COMMUNICATION WHICH RESULTS IN...
WHEEEEEEEEEE
MERA'S UNCONTROLLED THOUGHTS ARE SENDING THE DOLPHINS INTO A FRENZY OF SCREECHING!

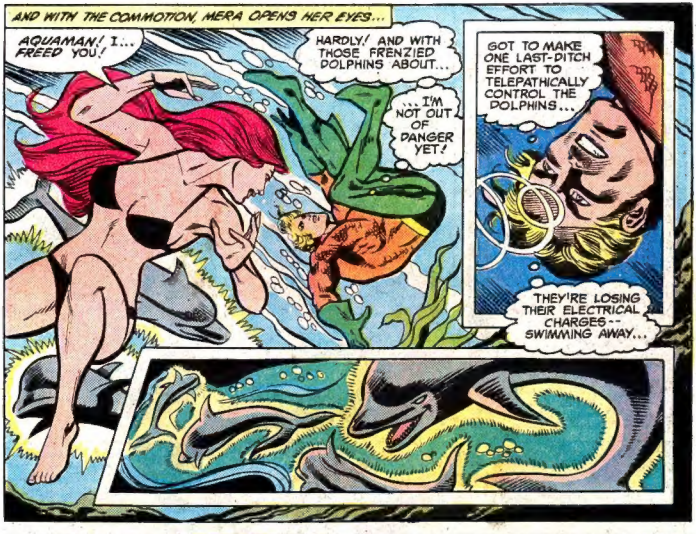
WHEEEEEEEEEE
THE JARRING SOUNDS--SHATTERING MY NERVES--!

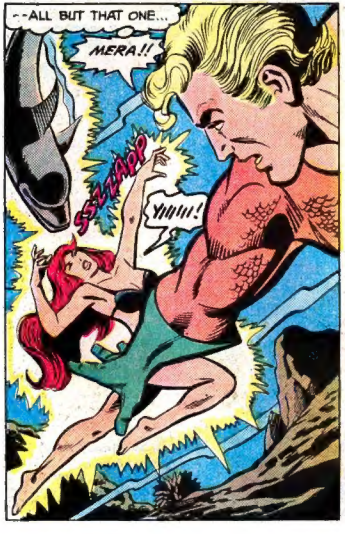
THE DOLPHINS ARE PANICKING--GOING BERSERK--! TURNING THE WATER INTO A MAELSTROM--!
2


SWAPP!
OOOMPH!
CAN'T TAKE THIS BATTERING...MUCH LONGER--
TURBULENCE IS SO BAD I CAN'T EVEN SEE MERA--
MERA! HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT!
MERA... AM I GETTING THROUGH TO YOU--?
KEEP ORDERING DOLPHINS...TO STOP...
I'LL TRY, AQUAMAN... AS LONG AS I HAVE A THOUGHT LEFT IN MY HEAD!
GREAT NEPTUNE! THE DOLPHINS ARE GENERATING ELECTRICITY... LIKE ELECTRIC EELS!
SSSSZZZZZ
YES... BUT SO WEAKLY... I CAN HARDLY "HEAR" YOU...
MUST BE MERA'S COMMANDS... ACTIVATING AN UNUSED PART OF THEIR BRAINS!
A CHARGED-UP DOLPHIN COMING AT ME--!
SSZZZAPP
3

JUST BARELY MANAGED TO TWIST OUT OF THE PATH OF THAT BLAST!
SSSTTT-ZAAP
SKRAAK!
MERA--TURN OFF YOUR THOUGHTS! THEY'RE KILLING ME!
NO GOOD--SHE DOESN'T HEAR ME! SHE'S SHUT OUT EVERY SIGHT-AND-SOUND, TRYING TO SAVE ME!
A TWO-WAY CHARGE THIS TIME!
SSSZZAP
AAARRGHH!
4

THEY WON'T LET UP ON ME-- HERE COMES ANOTHER CHARGED-UP ATTACK!
SHWAP
SZZZZZZZ
GOT THAT ONE--RIGHT ON THE SNOUT!
THREE-ON-ONE THIS TIME!
GOT TO MEET THIS WITH A COUNTER-MOVE OF MY OWN!
CHURNING UP THIS WATER MOVES MY HARD-WATER BLOCK TOWARDS THE ONCOMING DOLPHINS...
AND WHEN THEY SMASH INTO EACH OTHER--
SSSZZAPP
SHWA-YAMM


AND WITH THE COMMOTION, MERA OPENS HER EYES...
AQUAMAN! I... FREED YOU!
HARDLY! AND WITH THOSE FRENZIED DOLPHINS ABOUT...
...I'M NOT OUT OF DANGER YET!
GOT TO MAKE ONE LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO TELEPATHICALLY CONTROL THE DOLPHINS...
THEY'RE LOSING THEIR ELECTRICAL CHARGES--SWIMMING AWAY...


--ALL BUT THAT ONE...
MERA!!
SSZZAAP
YAAH!!

SHE TOOK A FULL CHARGE OF ELECTRICITY--KNOCKING HER OUT! HOPE SHE ISN'T--
WHA--?
ARTHUR! ARTHUR--HELP ME!

ARTHUR--HELP ME... PLEASE!
I'M COMING, DARLING!
EVEN IN HER UNCONSCIOUSNESS, SHE'S CALLING OUT TO ME!
ARTHUR, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I'M TRAPPED--A PRISONER!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, MERA! YOU'RE HERE WITH ME!
NO ARTHUR, I'M IMPRISONED SOMEWHERE ELSE!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
SAVE ME, ARTHUR --SAVE MEEEEEEE
YOU ARE SAFE, DARLING--IN MY ARMS!
NOT REALLY, AQUAMAN!
YOUR WIFE IS INDEED A PRISONER... AND I AM HER CAPTOR!
WHAT--?!
YES, THIS IS MERA'S BODY! BUT WE BOTH SHARE IT, SHE AND I!
BUT I AM THE DOMINANT "TENANT" ... AND YOUR MURDERER!
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE'S "HELP! I'M A PRISONER IN MY OWN BODY!"
7

ACTION REACTION

S-4004

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Julius and Bob,

Well, I've made it to *ACTION COMICS*. Unfortunately, my typing has not improved.

I must say that "Trackdown" in #533 has me preferring Marv Wolfman to Cary Bates when it comes to characterization. Marv doesn't try to overwhelm you with the *Superman* Lois romance the way Cary seems to with the increasingly overused "Darling!" (Supes: "Lois, we really shouldn't be doing this! This *is* a public place!" Lois: "Be quiet, darrrling! I don't care, darrrrling! Kiss me, you fool!") That leaves me cold. But at least it doesn't set the mythos back fifty years the way the two movies did. (Pretty tricky, since the character has only been around for 44 years!) But then again, this mostly-action/little-time-for-anything-else story may not be the best basis for comparison of styles.

Anyway, for *romantic* parts of the stories, I definitely prefer Marv. In the *action* and *battles* of the stories, however, I prefer Cary. Marv has great diversionary tactics, but his save-the-day sequences are somewhat lacking. I'm not a scientist, but I would think that bringing a solar prominence that close to Earth would have the potential of doing great harm to the atmosphere. And make no mistake, what was depicted was a solar flare, not mere solar wind. Solar winds are normally invisible to the unaided eye. By adding color to the drawing, I can only interpret it as a flare, something which would have disastrous effects. Since radio, TV, etc. are affected by normal solar flares or disruptions in the solar winds, a solar flare that close to Earth would disrupt communications the world over. And the weather would also be adversely affected...

I did most especially like the battles this time, since Lois and Jimmy fought foes and actually beat one each without *Superman* saving them. I do like scenes of non-super-powered beings showing courage in life-threatening situations. It gives hope and courage to some of us other non-super-powered beings.

JEF PECKHAM
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Actually, Jef, it really was just the solar wind. But we didn't want to have to include special glasses for you readers to see it, so we had colorist Gene D'Angelo add some color to it. As for non-super-powered beings and what they can do...read on!—BR

* * *

Bob!

How could you do it? How could you have Jack Jordan throw an aquarium full of fish at Mr. G. in *ACTION* #533? Water is very heavy. Unless *Superman's* been renting out his muscles, there is no way that Jordan should have been able to toss the aquarium at him. And how about the fish in that tank? I doubt you'll be able to face *Aquaman* in the morning!

MARTIN B. MILLER
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Considering that Jack Jordan was trying to save his own life (even though there were two super-heroes on the scene to step in), it isn't really surprising that he could toss 100 pounds of fish tank around. (We just saw an article in the paper a few days ago about a man who lifted a car off a little boy...and the car weighed a lot more than 100 pounds!) As for the fish, they were fakes. Mr. G. couldn't be bothered wasting time and energy feeding them!—BR

* * *

Dear Editor:

ACTION COMICS #533 was engrossing from start to finish. "H.I.V.E. and Go Seek" whetted our appetites in the previous issue and "Trackdown" was a masterful conclusion. We had been told that their real plot was to kill Lois, but when Jimmy got into the thick of things, I started to wonder who was the real target.

With a group like H.I.V.E., a writer really has to be careful in order to maintain their credibility and viability, especially in a world filled with super-heroes, but Marv has done a wonderful job both here and in *NEW TEEN TITANS*. This is the first time that H.I.V.E. has been effectively beaten, which is a lot to say for this group. Also, their scheme was elaborate as ever with their three-fold plan detailed to the finest point. Let's face it, they sure suckered *Superman*, and if Jimmy had not gotten himself into the picture, the conclusion might have been a whole lot darker. The heroic actions of Jimmy and Lois proved that *Superman* couldn't do it alone and when a villain group can do that to the world's greatest super-hero, you know you're facing beddies of the highest caliber.

The Atom and *Air Wave* tied up the Tiny Titan's latest in heroic fashion. I was glad to see Jack Jordan involved in the story and feel that he should be used more frequently, especially when his cousin is the hero in the spotlight. This time was all *Atom/Air Wave* action from deep in the heart of Texas to deep in the ocean.

I'm saddened to hear that *Air Wave's* bowing out of *ACTION*. Surely you can come up with some way to keep him around.

KENT A PHENIS
1321 N. Meridian Street, Apt. 913
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Air Wave is gone from the pages of ACTION, Kent, but he has a special place in our hearts. That's why we're happy to announce that he will be appearing with Superman (and a "pair" of surprise guest stars) in an upcoming issue of DC COMICS PRESENTS! As soon as it is scheduled for a specific issue, you'll read about it here!

* * *

Dear Messrs. Schwartz, Rozakis and Saviuk,

The more I see of *Air Wave*, the more I like him. And since *The Atom* has always been one of my favorites, an *Atom/Air Wave* team-up just naturally appeals to me.

"Ground Zero—Where?" had a good plot as well as fine characterization. I liked the way *Atom* and *Air Wave* (ahem) bumped into each other. I also liked the way Jack Jordan handles himself. (Runs in the family, no doubt.) In fact, I think he was being kind when he said the two heroes saved his life.

Mr. Saviuk's art, as usual, leaves nothing to complain about. His rendering of *Air Wave* is half the reason I started liking him. And *The Atom* has never looked better. (How do you pronounce Saviuk, anyway?)

I would like to see an origin for *Air Wave*. The closest I've seen was his debut in *GREEN LANTERN* #100, but that didn't say what happened to his mother, how he got his costume, where he was staying before he met *GL*, or why Jack invited him to live with his family in Dallas.

JILL D. WEBER
7092 Moonlight Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Hmmm, looks like I'll have a lot of questions to cover in that issue of DC PRESENTS!
By the way, Jill—Saviuk is pronounced "savvy-ook" or "savvy-uck" depending on whom you talk to!—BR

* * *

AND BABY MAKES THREE DEPARTMENT: Speaking of Saviuks—Alex and Jodi, that is—we are pleased to announce the birth of Daniel Scott Saviuk on May 21, 1982. Daniel (or "Corky" as BR calls him for reasons Jodi and Alex wish he wouldn't divulge) weighed in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces and will probably be helping his Dad pencil Aquaman stories any day now. (We can see it now, back-up stories in *ACTION COMICS* thirty years hence—written by Chuckie Rozakis and drawn by Daniel Saviuk!)